

LISTING OF CLAIMS

72. (Currently Amended) A test medium for detecting, quantifying ~~and or~~ differentiating general coliforms, *E. coli*, ~~and at least one of the genera *Aeromonas* and *Salmonella*~~, said test medium comprising: a nutrient base medium including ions of a salt; a first substrate which forms a first component of a first color in the presence of *E. coli*; a second substrate which forms a second component of a second color in the presence of ~~general coliforms~~ *Salmonella*; and a third substrate which forms a third component of a third color in the presence of ~~one of the genera *Aeromonas* and *Salmonella*~~; said second and third substrate forming said second and third components, respectively to make a fourth color, which is a combination of said second and third colors, in the presence of general coliforms, all of said colors being distinguishable from one another; said first substrate being a β -glucuronide nonchromogenic substrate; said second substrate being an α -D-galactoside chromogenic substrate and said third substrate[s] being a β -D-galactoside chromogenic substrate, ~~chromogenic substrates~~; and said first color being substantially black.

73. (Original) The test medium of claim 72, wherein said first substrate is selected from the group consisting of 8-hydroxyquinoline- β -D-glucuronide, an esculetin glucuronide, and cyclohexenoesculetin- β -D-glucuronide.

74. (Cancelled)

75. (Cancelled)

76. (Currently Amended) The test medium of claim 72, wherein said first substrate is 8-hydroxyquinoline- β -D-glucuronide and forms a substantially nondiffusible compound in the presence of ions of said salt and *E. coli*, ~~and said third substrate also forms said third component of said third color in the presence *Shigella*~~.

77. (Cancelled)

78. (Cancelled)

79. (Original) The test medium of claim 72, wherein said salt comprises a metallic salt and said first component is water insoluble as formed by reaction with said ions.

80. (Currently Amended) The test medium of claim ~~75~~ 72, wherein said first substrate consists essentially of 8-hydroxyquinoline- β -D-glucuronide, said second substrate consists essentially of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indole- α -D-galactoside, and said third substrate consists essentially of 6-chloro-3-indole- β -D-galactoside.

81. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting, quantifying, ~~and or~~ differentiating colonies of *Aeromonas* from selected other biological entities in a test

sample, said method comprising the following steps: providing a base medium including ions of salt, a β -D-galactoside substrate that forms a first component of a first color in the presence of a first enzyme, an α -D-galactoside substrate that forms a second component of a second color distinguishable from said first color in the presence of a second enzyme, and a β -glucuronide nonchromogenic substrate that forms a third substantially black component in the presence of a third enzyme; inoculating the test medium with a test sample; incubating the test medium; and examining the test medium whereby aggregations of colonies of *Aeromonas* are indicated by said first color, and aggregations of colonies of *Salmonella* are indicated by said second color, and whereby colonies of general coliforms are indicated by a third color, said third color being a combination of said first and second colors.

82. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 81, further comprising the step of examining the test medium for *E. coli* as indicated by the presence of substantially black aggregates.

83. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 82, wherein said β -glucuronide substrate is 8-hydroxyquinoline, ~~and further comprising the step of examining the test medium for *Shigella*, which are also indicated by said second color.~~